

REMARKS

Initially, applicants wish to acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 3, 5-7, 9 and 11-17.

Turning now to the rejections of record, in the Office Action the Examiner has rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hanson, U.S. 6,021,564.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection to claim 8 based on the Hanson reference. More specifically, with this response claim 8 has been amended to specify that the difference in the thickness between the upper surface pattern and the lower surface pattern be sufficient to facilitate etching of the upper surface pattern to prevent the lower surface pattern from being damaged by emission of a laser during formation of the blind via hole.

In contrast in the Hanson reference, while the upper surface pattern is disclosed as having a thickness less than the lower surface pattern, the thickness of these surface patterns has been selected in order to provide the benefit of avoiding damage from being done to the lower surface pattern when the blind via hole is formed utilizing a laser.

As a result, in applicants' opinion the subject matter of claim 8 is neither shown nor described by the Hanson reference such that claim 8 is allowable. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claim 8.

Further, with this response applicants also submit a Letter to the Official Draftsperson and one sheet of formal drawings conforming to the proposed drawing corrections submitted with the Preliminary Amendment filed on January 3, 2001, and indicated as being approved by the Examiner in the latest Office Action.

No other fees are believed to be payable with this communication. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

Applicants' have put forth every effort to place this application in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone

Serial No. 09/720,953 – Tsukada et al.
Art Unit: 2827 – Attorney Docket 232.001
Page 8

interview with the applicants' attorney would facilitate the allowance of this application,
the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed
below.

Respectfully submitted,



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